Amendments to the Claims

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A message delivery method, comprising:

determining whether an expected delay for delivery of an electronic message is less than a threshold delay, wherein the expected delay is the expected delay for delivery of an electronic message by a message gateway, wherein determining whether the expected delay is less than a threshold delay includes receiving a delay report, and wherein the delay report indicates whether the expected delay exceeds a threshold delay;

creating the electronic message only after determining that the expected delay is less than the threshold delay; and

sending the electronic message to the message gateway only after determining that the expected delay is less than the threshold delay.

19-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein determining whether the expected delay is less than a threshold delay includes sending a delay query.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the electronic message is a short message service message.